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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2176	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/887,873	BERGMAN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	William L.bashore	2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>19 November 2007</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-39</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) <u>7,10,11,13,20,23,24,26,33,36,37 and 39</u> is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-6,8,9,12,14-19,21,22,25,27-32,34,35 and 38</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1   This action is responsive to communications: amendment filed 11/19/200, to the original

application filed **June 22, 2001**. IDS filed 11/30/2006.

2.   Claims 1-39 pending. Claims 1, 8, 12, 14, 21, 25, 27, 34, 38 are independent. Pages 1-24 of the

Excel reference have been collected (including new screenshot page 25 and cited on current PTO-892.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election of Species I in the reply filed on 1/19/2007 is acknowledged. Because

applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement,

the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3.   35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition
of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the
conditions and requirements of this title.

4.   **The claimed invention (as claimed in claims 27-39) is directed to non-statutory subject**

matter.

In regard to independent claims 27, 34, 38, each of said claims recite a computer usable

medium. Since Applicant's Specification recites mediums in the form of non-tangible "carrier waves"

(see at least Specification page 20 line 16, page 22 lines 14, 24), said claims are directed to non-statutory

subject matter, since said claim can be directed to an abstract idea, and therefore note tied to any of the

technological arts. It is noted that the examiner's suggestion of amending the above claims to recite a

"*computer usable storage medium*" would serve to overcome this rejection.

In regard to dependent claims 28-33, 35-37, 39, said claims are rejected for fully incorporating

the deficiencies of their respective base claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness

rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if
> the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would
> have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6.   **Claims 1-6, 8-9, 12, 14-19, 21-22, 25, 27-32, 34-35, 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as**

being unpatentable over Microsoft Excel 2000 (hereinafter Excel 2000), 1999 Microsoft

Corporation, screenshots from application pages 1-25).

In regard to independent claim 1, Excel 2000 discloses a spreadsheet program as shown on

Excel 2000 pages 1 and 2. Cell C1 has been customized to include a typical (editable) formula for holding

the result of summing cells A1 and B1 (Excel 2000 pages 2 and 3). Page 3 shows cell C1 (designated as a

first cell) activated into edit mode. While in edit mode, a user selects cell B3 (designated as a second cell)

in response to a user mouse click.

Subsequent to a user's determination that cell B3 should not be entered into the first cell's

formula

(i.e. does not conform to a predetermined syntax), the "X" box is depressed, which cancels the action,

reverting cell C1's formula back to the current state (Excel 2000 pages 5 and 6). If said user determines

that said reference does conform to a predetermined syntax, then the reference is entered into the first

cell's formula.

Excel 2000 discloses a user activating cell B3, after the editing process as explained above (Excel

2000 page 7).

In addition, Excel also teaches a scenario whereby a formula is entered into cell C1 (see Excell

2000 page 21), said cell C1 currently in edit mode, and is also activated. A user then selects cell B1

(Excel 2000 page 22). Pursuant to depression of the ENTER key, Excel automatically determines that the

inclusion of cell B1 in the formula of cell C1 would not conform to the predetermined syntax of the

formula MOD function. Since division by zero is illegal, part of the accepted syntax (or rules governing

MOD's statement structure/content via operators and operands) is that the divisor is not zero (see Excel

2000 page 24). The result of this is Excel 2000 page 23, which automatically shows a division by zero

error, at the same time terminating formula editing of cell C1.

Regarding Excel 2000 pages 22-23, it is additionally noted that cell C1 comprises a MOD

function referencing cells A1 and B1. Excel's MOD function has a predetermined syntax involving

division of numerator and denominator. There exists a rule within a MOD function that the denominator

is not equal to zero. In the instant case, Excel has automatically determined that the MOD function's

predetermined syntax as shown will not accept referenced cell B1, since in doing so results in division by

zero. Although cell B1 is still technically referenced within the active cell (present during edit mode),

nevertheless, Excel's "#DIV/0!" warning and halting of editing makes it clear that cell B1 is not

acceptable within the formula, with said warning present until corrected, therefore it would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Excel to extend this warning in edit (active) mode as well, facilitating correct input.

It is also noted that Excel 2000 page 25 shows a user selecting a second cell (B1), resulting in automatic determination that cell B1 is invalid within the formula cell of C1 (containing the same formula as on page 22), and editing is halted.

Excel 2000 also discloses a validation method whereby various restrictions can be applied to cells (i.e. referring to other cells, formulas, etc.), once set, said restrictions can be automatically applied to all relevant cells in a workbook session accordingly (see Excel 2000 pages 16-19).

In regard to dependent claim 2, Excel 2000 discloses display of a formula toolbar when a formula is edited (Excel 2000 page 8 – drop down menu, also "X" and "+ " buttons, and input block).

In regard to dependent claim 3, Excel 2000 discloses closing display of a formula toolbar when a formula is out of editing mode (Excel 2000 page 10 – drop down menu, also elimination of "X" and "+ " buttons).

In regard to dependent claims 4, 5, 6, Excel 2000 discloses upon selection of a function (i.e. Insert, Function, select "IF' from top menu), a dialog opens and a mathematical operator "=" is added to an otherwise blank formula (Excel 2000 page 9). Excel 2000 also discloses function toolbar (drop down menu) operator "IF", "SUM" etc. Excel 2000 page 8).

In regard to independent claim 8, Excel 2000 discloses a spreadsheet program as shown on Excel 2000 pages 1 and 2. Cell C1 has been customized to include a typical (editable) formula for holding the result of summing cells A1 and B1 (Excel 2000 pages 2 and 3).

Excel 2000 discloses a user initially selecting cells C1 and C2 (as a cell group) (Excel 2000 pages 12, 13). Although two cells are initially selected, each cell can then be individually selected for editing via toggling using "ENTER" key, in this case cell C2.

Excel 2000 page 12 shows cell C2 activated into edit mode, with the knowledge that cell C1 (also selected) contains an existing formula, as explained above.

In addition, Excel 2000 discloses a spreadsheet program as shown on Excel 2000 pages 1 and 2. Cell C1 has been customized to include a typical (editable) formula for holding the result of summing cells A1 and B1 (Excel 2000 pages 2 and 3). Page 3 shows cell C1 (designated as a first cell) activated into edit mode. While in edit mode, a user selects cell B3 (designated as a second cell) in response to a user mouse click.

Subsequent to a user's determination that cell B3 should not be entered into the first cell's formula (i.e. does not conform to a predetermined syntax), the "X" box is depressed, which cancels the action, reverting cell C1's formula back to the current state (Excel 2000 pages 5 and 6). If said user determines that said reference does conform to a predetermined syntax, then the reference is entered into the first cell's formula.

Excel 2000 discloses a user activating cell B3, after the editing process as explained above (Excel 2000 page 7).

In addition, Excel also teaches a scenario whereby a formula is entered into cell C1 (see Excell 2000 page 21), said cell C1 currently in edit mode, and is also activated. A user then selects cell B1 (Excel 2000 page 22). Pursuant to depression of the ENTER key, Excel automatically determines that the inclusion of cell B1 in the formula of cell C1 would not conform to the predetermined syntax of the formula MOD function. Since division by zero is illegal, part of the accepted syntax (or rules governing MOD's statement structure/content via operators and operands) is that the divisor is not zero (see Excel

2000 page 24). The result of this is Excel 2000 page 23, which automatically shows a division by zero

error, at the same time terminating formula editing of cell C1.

It is also noted that Excel 2000 page 25 shows a user selecting a second cell (B1), resulting in

automatic determination that cell B1 is invalid within the formula cell of C1 (containing the same formula

as on page 22), and editing is halted.

Regarding Excel 2000 pages 22-23, it is additionally noted that cell C1 comprises a MOD

function referencing cells A1 and B1. Excel's MOD function has a predetermined syntax involving

division of numerator and denominator. There exists a rule within a MOD function that the denominator

is not equal to zero. In the instant case, Excel has automatically determined that the MOD function's

predetermined syntax as shown will not accept referenced cell B1, since in doing so results in division by

zero. Although cell B1 is still technically referenced within the active cell (present during edit mode),

nevertheless, Excel's "#DIV/0!" warning and halting of editing makes it clear that cell B1 is not

acceptable within the formula, with said warning present until corrected, therefore it would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Excel to extend this

warning in edit (active) mode as well, facilitating correct input.

Excel 2000 discloses a validation method whereby various restrictions can be applied to cells (i.e.

referring to other cells, formulas, etc.), once set, said restrictions can be automatically applied to all

relevant cells in a workbook session accordingly (see Excel 2000 pages 16-19).

In regard to dependent claim 9, Excel 2000 discloses display of a formula toolbar when a

formula is edited (Excel 2000 page 8 – drop down menu, also "X" and "+ " buttons, and input block).

In regard to independent claim 12, Excel 2000 discloses a spreadsheet program as shown on

Excel 2000 pages 1 and 2. Cell C1 has been customized to include a typical (editable) formula for holding

the result of summing cells A1 and B1 (Excel 2000 pages 2 and 3). Page 3 shows cell C1 activated into a

formula entry area (edit mode). While in edit mode, a user selects cell B3 in response to a user mouse

click (user input). It is noted that selection of cell B3 initially adds "B3" to the formula.

Subsequent to a user's determination that cell B3 should not be entered into the first cell's

formula (i.e. does not conform to a predetermined syntax), the "X" box is depressed, which cancels the

action, reverting cell C1's formula back to the current state (Excel 2000 pages 5 and 6). If said user

determines that said reference does conform to a predetermined syntax, then the reference is entered into

the first cell's formula.

In addition, Excel also teaches a scenario whereby a formula is entered into cell C1 (see Excell

2000 page 21), said cell C1 currently in edit mode, and is also activated. A user then selects cell B1

(Excel 2000 page 22). Pursuant to depression of the ENTER key, Excel automatically determines that the

inclusion of cell B1 in the formula of cell C1 would not conform to the predetermined syntax of the

formula MOD function. Since division by zero is illegal, part of the accepted syntax (or rules governing

MOD's statement structure/content via operators and operands) is that the divisor is not zero (see Excel

2000 page 24). The result of this is Excel 2000 page 23, which automatically shows a division by zero

error, at the same time terminating formula editing of cell C1.

Regarding Excel 2000 pages 22-23, it is additionally noted that cell C1 comprises a MOD

function referencing cells A1 and B1. Excel's MOD function has a predetermined syntax involving

division of numerator and denominator. There exists a rule within a MOD function that the denominator

is not equal to zero. In the instant case, Excel has automatically determined that the MOD function's

predetermined syntax as shown will not accept referenced cell B1, since in doing so results in division by

zero. Although cell B1 is still technically referenced within the active cell (present during edit mode),

nevertheless, Excel's "#DIV/0!" warning and halting of editing makes it clear that cell B1 is not acceptable within the formula, with said warning present until corrected, therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Excel to extend this warning in edit (active) mode as well, facilitating correct input.

It is also noted that Excel 2000 page 25 shows a user selecting a second cell (B1), resulting in automatic determination that cell B1 is invalid within the formula cell of C1 (containing the same formula as on page 22), and editing is halted.

Excel 2000 discloses a validation method whereby various restrictions can be applied to cells (i.e. referring to other cells, formulas, etc.), once set, said restrictions can be automatically applied to all relevant cells in a workbook session accordingly (see Excel 2000 pages 16-19).

In regard to independent claim 14, claim 14 reflects the system comprising computer executable instructions for implementing the methods as claimed in claim 1, and in further view of the following, is rejected along the same rationale.

During interaction with Excel 200, a user can determine syntax conformity accordingly. Alternatively, Excel 2000 provides various auditing tools to (automatically) visually trace errors (i.e. conformity errors, etc.) as well as automatically circle invalid data etc.

In addition, Excel also teaches a scenario whereby a formula is entered into cell C1 (see Excel 2000 page 21), said cell C1 currently in edit mode, and is also activated. A user then selects cell B1 (Excel 2000 page 22). Pursuant to depression of the ENTER key, Excel automatically determines that the inclusion of cell B1 in the formula of cell C1 would not conform to the predetermined syntax of the formula MOD function. Since division by zero is illegal, part of the accepted syntax (or rules governing MOD's statement structure/content via operators and operands) is that the divisor is not zero (see Excel

2000 page 24). The result of this is Excel 2000 page 23, which automatically shows a division by zero error, at the same time terminating formula editing of cell C1.

Regarding Excel 2000 pages 22-23, it is additionally noted that cell C1 comprises a MOD function referencing cells A1 and B1. Excel's MOD function has a predetermined syntax involving division of numerator and denominator. There exists a rule within a MOD function that the denominator is not equal to zero. In the instant case, Excel has automatically determined that the MOD function's predetermined syntax as shown will not accept referenced cell B1, since in doing so results in division by zero. Although cell B1 is still technically referenced within the active cell (present during edit mode), nevertheless, Excel's "#DIV/0!" warning and halting of editing makes it clear that cell B1 is not acceptable within the formula, with said warning present until corrected, therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Excel to extend this warning in edit (active) mode as well, facilitating correct input.

It is also noted that Excel 2000 page 25 shows a user selecting a second cell (B1), resulting in automatic determination that cell B1 is invalid within the formula cell of C1 (containing the same formula as on page 22), and editing is halted.

In addition, Excel 2000 discloses a validation method whereby various restrictions can be applied to cells (i.e. referring to other cells, formulas, etc.), once set, said restrictions can be automatically applied to all relevant cells in a workbook session accordingly (see Excel 2000 pages 16-19).

In regard to dependent claims 15-19, claims 15-19 reflect the system comprising computer executable instructions for implementing the methods as claimed in claims 2-6 respectively, and are rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to independent claim 21, claim 21 reflects the system comprising computer executable instructions for implementing the methods as claimed in claim 8, and in further view of the following, is rejected along the same rationale.

During interaction with Excel 200, a user can determine syntax conformity accordingly. Alternatively, Excel 2000 provides various auditing tools to (automatically) visually trace errors (i.e. conformity errors, etc.) as well as automatically circle invalid data etc.

In addition, Excel 2000 discloses a validation method whereby various restrictions can be applied to cells (i.e. referring to other cells, formulas, etc.), once set, said restrictions can be automatically applied to all relevant cells in a workbook session accordingly (see Excel 2000 pages 16-19; compare with claim 21 "*wherein the determiner is embodied in a computing device*").

In addition, Excel also teaches a scenario whereby a formula is entered into cell C1 (see Excell 2000 page 21), said cell C1 currently in edit mode, and is also activated. A user then selects cell B1 (Excel 2000 page 22). Pursuant to depression of the ENTER key, Excel automatically determines that the inclusion of cell B1 in the formula of cell C1 would not conform to the predetermined syntax of the formula MOD function. Since division by zero is illegal, part of the accepted syntax (or rules governing MOD's statement structure/content via operators and operands) is that the divisor is not zero (see Excel 2000 page 24). The result of this is Excel 2000 page 23, which automatically shows a division by zero error, at the same time terminating formula editing of cell C1.

Regarding Excel 2000 pages 22-23, it is additionally noted that cell C1 comprises a MOD function referencing cells A1 and B1. Excel's MOD function has a predetermined syntax involving division of numerator and denominator. There exists a rule within a MOD function that the denominator is not equal to zero. In the instant case, Excel has automatically determined that the MOD function's predetermined syntax as shown will not accept referenced cell B1, since in doing so results in division by zero. Although cell B1 is still technically referenced within the active cell (present during edit mode),

nevertheless, Excel's "#DIV/0!" warning and halting of editing makes it clear that cell B1 is not

acceptable within the formula, with said warning present until corrected, therefore it would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Excel to extend this

warning in edit (active) mode as well, facilitating correct input.

It is also noted that Excel 2000 page 25 shows a user selecting a second cell (B1), resulting in

automatic determination that cell B1 is invalid within the formula cell of C1 (containing the same formula

as on page 22), and editing is halted.

In regard to dependent claim 22, claim 22 reflects the system comprising computer executable

instructions for implementing the methods as claimed in claim 9, and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to independent claim 25, claim 25 reflects the system comprising computer

executable instructions for implementing the methods as claimed in claim 12, and in further view of the

following, is rejected along the same rationale.

During interaction with Excel 200, a user can determine syntax conformity accordingly.

Alternatively, Excel 2000 provides various auditing tools to (automatically) visually trace errors (i.e.

conformity errors, etc.) as well as automatically circle invalid data etc.

In addition, Excel 2000 discloses a validation method whereby various restrictions can be applied

to cells (i.e. referring to other cells, formulas, etc.), once set, said restrictions can be automatically applied

to all relevant cells in a workbook session accordingly (see Excel 2000 pages 16-19; compare with claim

25 "*wherein the determiner is embodied in a computing device*").

In addition, Excel also teaches a scenario whereby a formula is entered into cell C1 (see Excell

2000 page 21), said cell C1 currently in edit mode, and is also activated. A user then selects cell B1

(Excel 2000 page 22). Pursuant to depression of the ENTER key, Excel automatically determines that the

inclusion of cell B1 in the formula of cell C1 would not conform to the predetermined syntax of the formula MOD function. Since division by zero is illegal, part of the accepted syntax (or rules governing MOD's statement structure/content via operators and operands) is that the divisor is not zero (see Excel 2000 page 24). The result of this is Excel 2000 page 23, which automatically shows a division by zero error, at the same time terminating formula editing of cell C1.

Regarding Excel 2000 pages 22-23, it is additionally noted that cell C1 comprises a MOD function referencing cells A1 and B1. Excel's MOD function has a predetermined syntax involving division of numerator and denominator. There exists a rule within a MOD function that the denominator is not equal to zero. In the instant case, Excel has automatically determined that the MOD function's predetermined syntax as shown will not accept referenced cell B1, since in doing so results in division by zero. Although cell B1 is still technically referenced within the active cell (present during edit mode), nevertheless, Excel's "#DIV/0!" warning and halting of editing makes it clear that cell B1 is not acceptable within the formula, with said warning present until corrected, therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Excel to extend this warning in edit (active) mode as well, facilitating correct input.

It is also noted that Excel 2000 page 25 shows a user selecting a second cell (B1), resulting in automatic determination that cell B1 is invalid within the formula cell of C1 (containing the same formula as on page 22), and editing is halted.

In regard to independent claim 27, claim 27 reflects the computer program product comprising computer executable instructions for implementing the methods as claimed in claim 14, and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claims 28-32, claims 28-32 reflect the system comprising computer executable instructions for implementing the methods as claimed in claims 15-29 respectively, and are rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to independent claim 34, claim 34 reflects the system comprising computer executable instructions for implementing the methods as claimed in claim 8, and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 35, claim 35 reflects the system comprising computer executable instructions for implementing the methods as claimed in claim 9, and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to independent claim 38, claim 38 reflects the system comprising computer executable instructions for implementing the methods as claimed in claim 12, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

7.   Applicant's arguments filed 3/21/2007 have been fully and carefully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the amendment to claims 27-39 overcomes the examiner's rejections of said claims under 35 U.S.C. 101. The examiner respectfully disagrees. It is the examiner's opinion that adding the word "tangible" as in a "tangible computer readable medium" does not render said medium (i.e. a signal) as statutory. the examiner's suggestion of amending said claims to recite a *"computer usable storage medium"* would serve to overcome this rejection.

Applicant argues that the user must make manual determinations as to syntax determination. The examiner disagrees. Applicant does not define the scope of "automatically determining", therefore the claims do not preclude human intervention.

Regarding the examiner's second (MOD) example, Applicant argues that cell C1 does not terminate formula editing, but instead, allows the formula and the reference to cell B1 to be entered fully, and then later shows an error. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Representative claim 1 does not claim that determination is made before entry in cell C1 is completed. Using page 25 of Excel 2000 as a reference, clicking cell C1 (the claimed "first cell") results in an edit mode of a mod function (=MOD(A1, B1)) within said cell. Clicking on cell B1 (the claimed "second cell") causes excel 2000 to automatically determine that the value of B1 within cell C1 is in error, due to incorrect syntax (division by zero).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.
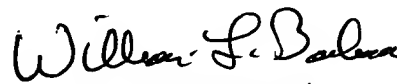
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should

be directed to William L. Bashore whose telephone number is (571) 272-4088. The examiner can

normally be reached on 9:00 am - 5:30 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug

Hutton can be reached on (571) 272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this

application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application

Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained

from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available

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Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR

CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER